

# The Polish Review

VOL. 1, NO. 5

NEW YORK, N. Y. SEPTEMBER 29, 1941

PRICE 10 CENTS

## THE TRAGEDY OF WARSAW



*Sept. 29th, 1941, is the second anniversary of the surrender of Warsaw, the capital of Poland, after this open city had borne for twenty-one days the full fury of Germany's bestial bombardment. After the water supply had been deliberately destroyed the town was laid in ruins by the Luftwaffe, many thousands of civilians being ruthlessly murdered.*

# POLAND SPEAKS . . .

**H**AD Poland, in September, 1939 yielded to German demands, the result would have been either a new Munich giving Hitler complete hegemony over the entire European continent, or an immediate attack upon unprepared England and France with an easy victory for the Third Reich.

In September, 1939, Poland answered Hitler NO!, fully aware of the inevitable consequences of her decision. She accepted the role of doomed outpost. She perished in order—to live!

On September 1st, 1939, the day of the German invasion of Poland, Polish and German forces compared as follows:

## POLAND

## GERMANY

### POPULATION:

35,000,000      *German superiority more than double*      79,000,000

### COST OF ARMAMENT:

5,000,000,000 Marks or about \$1,000,000,000      91,000,000,000 Marks or about \$37,000,000,000

*German superiority 37-fold*

### PER CAPITA INCOME:

\$11.50      \$32.00

*German superiority threefold*

### INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY:

700,000 tons iron ore	16,000,000 tons iron ore
1,500,000 " steel	19,800,000 " steel
1,300,000 " cement	12,600,000 " cement
36,000,000 " anthracite	185,000,000 " anthracite
no " bituminous coal	184,000,000 " bituminous coal
3,600,000 KWH electric power	50,000,000 KWH electric power

*German superiority 10 to 18-fold*

### ARMED FORCES ENGAGED:

31 infantry divisions	70 infantry divisions
<i>German superiority two-fold</i>	
2 armored brigades	13 armored divisions
	4 motorized divisions
<i>German superiority 15-fold</i>	
404 airplanes including	4320 airplanes including
36 modern bombers	1724 bombers
	1209 fighters

*German superiority more than ten-fold*

### ARMORED FORCES

Polish



German



Polish

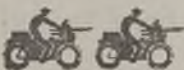


### AVIATION

German



### MOTORIZED FORCES



### INFANTRY



*From an underground paper published in Warsaw.*



# "Festung Warschau"

## How the Open City of Warsaw Was Destroyed

WARSAW was an open city even before the war of 1914. The Russians had completely dismantled all the fortifications of the capital. They had based the defence of the Vistula on the forts of Modlin and Deblin.

During the last war, no works of fortification whatsoever were carried out in the vicinity of Warsaw, not even in 1915, when the Germans were threatening Warsaw during the fighting on the River Bzura.

After 1918, nobody thought for a moment of fortifying the Polish capital. No work was undertaken for this purpose and in a vast area around Warsaw no fortifications of any kind were built. The old forts constructed in the XIXth Century had been put to other uses or demolished. Where forts once stood villas and country-houses sprang up, sometimes even large blocks of flats. Thus, the site of Fort Mokotow had become a new quarter of the town. Denuded of fortifications, Warsaw as a centre was particularly difficult to defend. Furthermore, the plans of the Polish General Staff had been prepared with a view to a line of defence west of Bzura, on the Bug and the Narew. Moreover, the short time that elapsed between September 1st and the arrival of the first German engineer corps in the neighborhood of Warsaw precluded even the most hastily constructed fortifications.

The defence of Warsaw, one of the noblest pages in Poland's history, had to be improvised on the spur of the moment. To arrest the advance of the enemy, barricades were thrown up in great haste and anti-tank trenches dug. How was the defence carried out? The outlying districts of the capital and the suburbs were abandoned to the enemy; the centre of the city, containing the historical monuments, constituted the heart of the defence.

In the light of these facts, it is quite clear that from a military point of view, it was absurd to call Warsaw

"a fortress" (*Festung Warschau*). According to the laws of war, the siege of Warsaw was the siege of an "inhabited agglomeration," and not of a "fortified position." This is so well known, and the distinction so well established that further comment is unnecessary.

However, the German high command gave orders during the nights of September 8th to 9th for heavy artillery to bombard the city. The purpose

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THE ROYAL CASTLE





of this grave infraction of the international rules of warfare, the first victims of which were civilians, was to shake the morale of the defenceless population. When Warsaw had been completely surrounded by German military forces and the siege begun, the Germans moved the positions of their artillery closer in, and opened fire on the entire city, even shelling the civilian and military hospitals.

When, on the 15th of September, bombing from the air and the shelling by heavy artillery had already claimed many victims among the civilian population, the Germans proposed to the commander of the city to evacuate the women and children. This proposition, transmitted by wireless, was particularly difficult to carry out. Nevertheless an effort in this direction was made. In accordance with the German suggestions, a great number of civilians, chiefly women and children, left the city, in the direction of Wawrzyszew, where they were met by intense machine-gun fire from the Germans. Naturally, the evacuees suffered heavy losses and were forced to turn back.

When, during the second half of September, the food supply had run out, some of the inhabitants, mostly mothers of families, went to dig up pota-



A View of Plac Bankowy (Bank Square)

## THE TERMS OF SURRENDER

*The siege of Warsaw began on September 8th, 1939. On September 28th, Warsaw—with its water supply, electrical power station and gas works destroyed, half in ruins, with thousands of wounded, surrendered. The conditions of surrender were:*

1. *All military units to surrender their arms on the morning of September 29th, at places designated in advance. Surrendered arms to be guarded by own detachments assigned by the commanders of large units.*
2. *After the surrender of arms, detachments to gather in the designated areas which they must not leave.*
3. *Barricades on all main thoroughfares to be disarmed and removed to enable the entry of the German troops.*
4. *The Polish troops to leave Warsaw during the evening of September 29th. The defensive units of the Praga suburb to be the first to leave.*

atoes in the allotments of the outlying districts, the Germans did not scruple to fire on them, and many women were killed in this way.

A further crime against the laws of humanity committed by the Germans was the systematic manner in which for three weeks they destroyed the centre of the capital, its churches, hospitals, reservoirs, etc. There was no earthly justification for this. In the case of air bombardment, the enemy might sometimes

claim to have mistaken his objectives, owing to bad visibility. But when, as in the case of artillery fire at close range, the highest precision is obtainable, error becomes impossible. In a city of which the Germans had exact plans, the bombardment of non-military objectives was a deliberate crime.

Despite all efforts of Nazi propaganda, the wanton destruction of Warsaw will forever remain a blot on the honour of the German Army. No amount of argument can do away with the fact that Hitler's ruthless generals, after having methodically destroyed by their artillery fire the city's water-mains and reservoirs—the celebrated filters of Warsaw that formed one of the sights of the city—proceeded during the tragic night from September 25th to 26th to destroy the capital from the air. It was then

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U. S. Embassy in Warsaw



*. . . In the fourth week of the war, we began an air bombardment the like of which the world had never seen. If one wanted to find Warsaw on the horizon from a distance of 50 or 60 miles, it was enough to look in the direction where an immense black cloud arose like a gigantic mushroom in the sky. Beneath that cloud was Warsaw, being systematically destroyed by high explosives and incendiaries . . .*

*Eugene Hadamovsky  
Lieutenant of the German air force  
DAS REICH (Berlin) Weekly*

that Warsaw, deprived of water, was made the target of thousands of incendiary bombs, and transformed into a gigantic brazier, where hundreds of buildings were consumed at the same time.



Another Military Target



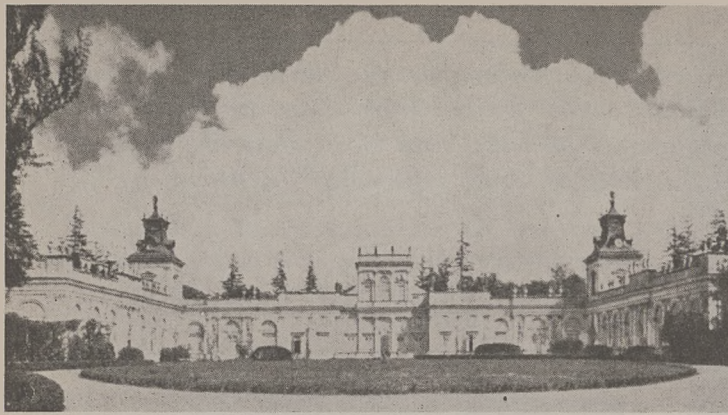
A View of Nowy Swiat Street



St. Martin's Church

The bombing of Warsaw will forever remain a typical instance of Germany's flagrant violations of the fundamental principles of the laws of war and of humanity.





Wilanow Palace

# WARSAW

by KSAW SZYNSKI

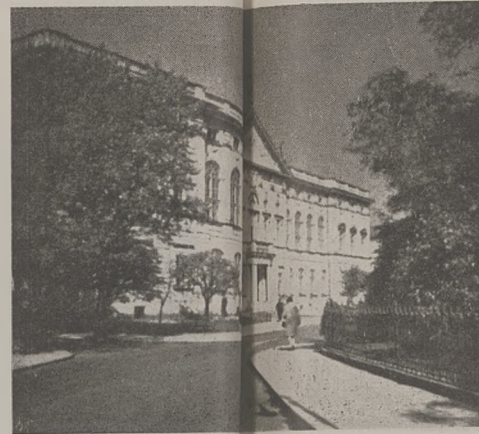


Lazienki Palace

WARSAW was the third European capital to be engulfed by the march of German imperialism. Like Vienna and Prague, Warsaw had a character of its own, expressing all the glories and miseries of Polish history. It had never been the capital of mediaeval Poland, for that part was played first by Gniezno in the West and then by Cracow in the South. But the union with Lithuania, resulting in the accession to the throne of the Lithuanian Prince Jagiello, moved the centre of gravity of the Polish Commonwealth towards the northeast. Warsaw, then only the capital of the Duchy of Masovia, a hereditary fief of the descendants of the royal house of Piast, was situated in the centre of the lands of the Crown of Poland. East Prussia, with its capital Konigsberg, was also held in fee to that Crown, by the Hohenzollerns, who owed allegiance to the King of Poland. Danzig, Elbing and Malborg were on Polish territory. The change of capital, for one nearer the sea, reflected the maritime ambitions of XVIth century Poland. Warsaw was much nearer than Cracow to the mouth of the Vistula, the only great commercial waterway to the sea. Sigismond III, who made Warsaw his capital towards the end of the XVIth century, was the first Polish king of the Swedish dynasty of Vasa.

In many respects, like Philip II of Spain, he chose a capital situated centrally. Valladolid and Burgos were dethroned for Madrid, just as Cracow and Wilno were replaced by Warsaw, which became the royal seat, where parliaments were held. Perhaps Sigismond Vasa, who lost his crown in Sweden on account of his Catholic faith, wanted to be nearer to the Baltic, beyond which lay his native country, the land of his plans and ambitions? Thus the city, which has known as much of the horrors of modern war as has Madrid, seems to have owed its rise to the rank of capital to circumstances similar to those which made Madrid the capital of Spain.

The peculiar political structure of the Republic of Poland during the last three centuries of its independent existence left its mark on the new capital. Of the Polish cities, Danzig and Cracow were great



Palace

warehouse centers and their old trading families, like the Mierows of Danzig or the Boners and Szanfraniecz of Cracow, gradually penetrated into the aristocracy. Wilno and Kiev with their scores of churches were border strongholds living in the shadow of castles, that guarded but also crushed these cities with their weight.

Warsaw was a city of palaces. To the old Gothic castle were added the two royal palaces of Ujazdow and Kazimierz, both in Baroque style; then Wilanow (*Villa Nuova*), built by King Sobieski; Lazienki, designed by the last King of Poland, Poniatowski; and finally, the Belvedere, built for his brother.

In this Republic of Nobles, the King was after all only *primus inter pares* among the magnates, some of whom were descendants of ruling princes of Ruthenia and Lithuania, some the sons of the great senatorial families of Poland proper and some

*homines novi*, who had established their wealth on border estates or salt mines leased by the Crown. The magnates lived part of the year in Warsaw and took part in the parliamentary sessions. They had to impress their partisans among the gentry and minor nobility. Following the King's example, they built for themselves palaces, sometimes rivaling the royal ones. Old Warsaw was a city of magnificent palaces scattered among vast parks and gardens. They gave to the town a special character, for the commercial part of the city never acquired much importance. Besides, the rich merchants tried to emulate the aristocracy, and the liberal Polish constitution frequently admitted the leading townsmen to ranks of nobility.

For the first time the partition and the XIX century dimmed the lustre of elegant Warsaw. After the insurrection of 1830, Tsar Nicholas I, stunted the growth of the city by erecting a sinister citadel designed to prevent a new uprising. It was built in the suburb of Zoliborz (*Joli Bord*), which eventually became one of the most attractive parts of the town. The aristocratic families that once gave Warsaw a gay and sumptuous air were mostly ruined

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## MODERN WARSAW





by Russian oppression. In 1863, there was a new uprising—in spite of the citadel—and its failure brought new disasters. The Russians endeavoured to deprive Warsaw of its Polish, European and metropolitan character, and to make of it a provincial Russian town. The riverside quarter, instead of being given boulevards, was turned into slums. Ugly Russian churches were built in a city in which no one had ever confessed the Orthodox faith, save Russian officials.

In Poland, as in other countries, the XIX century was but in lesser degree, a century of industrialisation. Simultaneously with the cotton mills of Lodz grew up the smaller factories and engineering workshops of Warsaw. The new working class quarters became here, as everywhere in Europe, a breeding ground of disease, without sunshine, but with public houses at every street corner. Many palaces were then turned into flats for office workers and former houses of prosperous merchants into working class tenements. After glorious days Warsaw knew misery and gloom. But even in those times of privation the spirit of Warsaw remained unbroken, and its people had the pride of magnates, the gallantry of rebellious nobles and the bravery of Napoleon's Polish lancers. Beneath all was the primitive toughness of Masovian farmers, famous for their stubborn and resolute character. The greatest war the world has ever known brought these qualities to the surface.

\* \* \*

CHOPIN, most famous of Poles, was born in Zelazowa Wola near Warsaw, the scene of his youth where his talent developed together with his attachment to Masovia, which rings in his Mazurkas. Slowacki, son of Volhynia, Norwid and Wyspianski all felt the attraction of the capital. Prus, Weyssenhof and Zeromski made Warsaw the scene of many of their novels, and its legend provided Kraszewski, the Polish Walter Scott, with the subject of some of his finest stories. Despite Russian domination, Warsaw was the centre of Polish cultural life.

\* \* \*

UNTIL the present war Warsaw always had excellent theatres. In the XVII century, Corneille, Racine and Moliere, were played there, and in our own times some of G. B. Shaw's plays had their premieres there, even before being produced in England. A hundred years ago, after the unsuccessful insurrection, Paris was the intellectual capital of Poland; then Cracow became the centre of thought and art. But during Poland's brief term of independence the leadership of Warsaw was never disputed.

\* \* \*

TWENTY years is a short time for a country, ravaged by a century of misfortune and the World War. But Warsaw achieved a great deal within its twenty years of freedom. New suburbs had sprung up, and the working-class districts equalled those of Socialist Vienna, Copenhagen and Stockholm. The Russian veneer imposed during a hundred years was soon shed. Living conditions were much improved. Broad boulevards were built along the Vistula, waste grounds were turned into public parks and social welfare centres were established in the poorer quarters of the town.

The city was fortunate to have a leader of great ability, an enthusiastic administrator, who set his heart on removing the traces of former servitude. He excavated the old city walls, renovated historical monuments, constructed new streets and modern suburbs. But he found fame far beyond the frontiers of his city not as the builder of new Warsaw but as the man who preferred to lay it in ruins rather than surrender its keys to the enemy. In September, 1939, he led the people of Warsaw to the barricades, defying an enemy whom no one had dared to defy before. His name was Stefan Starzynski. He was taken to the concentration camp of Dachau by the Germans a year ago; we do not know whether he is still alive.

The days of September left a tragic mark on Warsaw. Surrounded on all sides, undefended in the air and with inadequate artillery, the city fought back to the very end. The Royal Castle was completely burnt down; the Cathedral was partly destroyed and the shopping centres, a number of churches, hospitals, the libraries and the University were reduced to ruins. Like the legendary Swiss Winkelried, Warsaw buried the Teutonic pikes in its breast. It was the first city in Europe to defy Hitler. He was bitterly disappointed in his Polish hopes and took revenge. "We shall rebuild it as a provincial town on the Berlin-Moscow road"—threatened the Nazis. So far they have not rebuilt it at all.

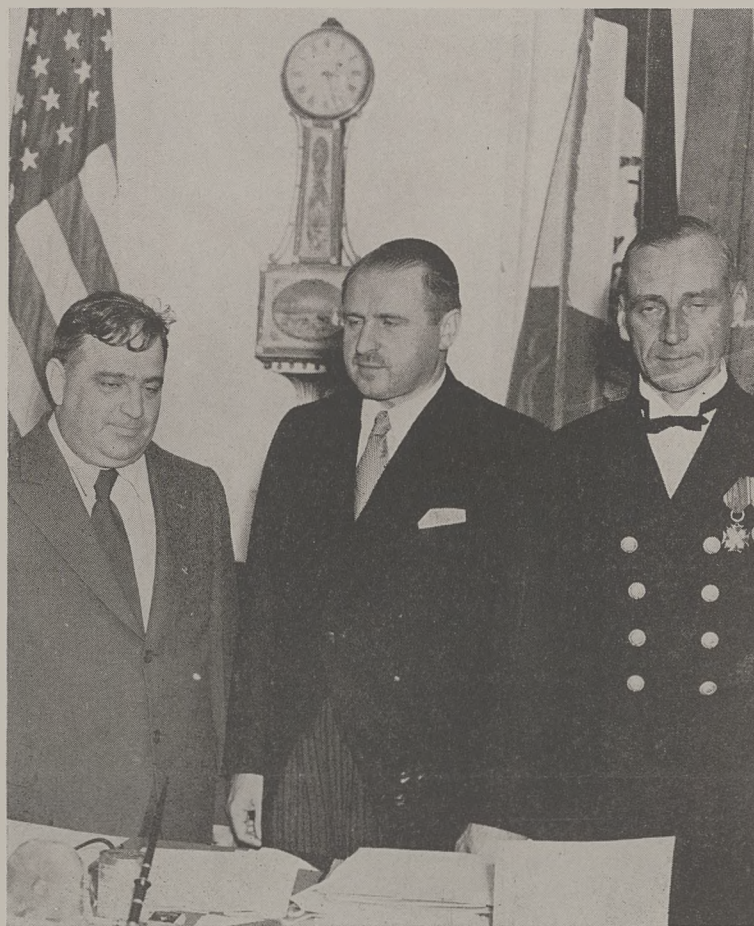
Although it lost many of its citizens in September, the population of Warsaw today has swollen by several hundred thousands of Poles deported from other parts of the country. But its shops have been looted, its industry is working half time, its schools are closed, its people go hungry. Hardly a day passes without executions, arrests and man-hunts, all signs of resistance. None of the European capitals conquered by Hitler has shown the stubborn will of Warsaw, and that is why it is filled with troops, S.S. police and informers. But the city fights on!

# STARZYNSKI'S BROADCAST

*Night of September 18th to 19th, 1939 — The Tenth Day of the Siege*

"CITIZENS, another day of warfare has passed, without any massive air bombardment; but women and children who were in line before the food stores have been seen to fall beneath the shell-bursts of enemy artillery. This brutal shelling of the city and its innocent population will remain unavailing. Such action will not bring about the desired result. But similar methods of destruction will make their weight felt upon the German nation and on its spirit. I do not know what need the German nation has to destroy works of art, pictures and splendid monuments of civilization by bombardment from the air. Today I have seen the Royal Castle, the Belvedere, the Cathedral of St. John, the hospital of the Red Cross, churches and monuments laid in ruins. In our country, people are attached to their religion and their church. The hatred of a people is not quickly extinguished. Temporary victories, and even the temporary occupation of a whole country, do not decide the future. War is not ended by such victories. But the destruction of all the wealth of a nation, the destruction of churches, these are things that never pass away. The Protestant church has been entirely destroyed. A house where ten Germans captured in a raid had been interned, was also bombed. The bombing of Warsaw must have profound repercussions. The ruins will disappear, we shall reconstruct them. Warsaw has been destroyed more than once. But the vital force of the nation is so strong that we shall be able to carry out the work of reconstruction speedily, and create monuments worthy of the nation. Revenge will be bitter.

"Today Herr Hitler has made a speech in which he asserted that no towns in Poland had been bombed, with the exception of Warsaw, whose



Mr. Stefan Starzynski, the Mayor and Defender of Warsaw, with Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and Captain Mamert Stankiewicz of the M. S. "Pilsudski," at City Hall, New York, September 29, 1937.

civilian population by taking part in the defence, had caused the exceptional bombing of the city. This is an insolent lie. Not Warsaw alone has been bombed. Nobody knows better than do the inhabitants of Warsaw, how greatly the towns and the people of our country-side have suffered from the barbarous attacks of German aircraft. How can anyone lie so wantonly as to say that the civilian population of Warsaw has taken up arms, thus laying itself open to bombardment? We have sufficient troops, and we are not forced to call the civilian population to arms. We need this population for other work. Doubtless we are in a grave and difficult position. But our women and fellow citizens have no need to take up

arms. They help us in caring for the wounded and in attempting to keep up the supply of food. They have work enough every day in attempting to make good the damage caused by the incessant bombardment. They go to succour the victims and they work to repair the damage after every raid. In the worst trials, we shall maintain our courage and our dignity.

"The President of the Republic has addressed a message to the nation, which you have all heard. The President concludes by exhorting the citizens to preserve, in spite of even greater hardships, their courage, firmness and dignity. Who should know better than we, the inhabitants of Warsaw, that the population of the capital has not for a single moment lost its spirit of dignity or its pride! It knows how to defend its honour even under the most difficult conditions, it has faith in the justice of its cause. It is this faith which allows us to resist. We believe from the bottom of our hearts that the avalanche which is descending on us will be broken!

*(Please turn to page 11)*



# The Indomitable Capital

by G. M. GODDEN

**E**ARLY in the second week of the Nazi invasion a communique was issued from the headquarters of the Fuhrer in Poland. It announced what was in effect war upon the entire civil population of Poland. "The German army will, henceforward," declared the communique, "employ all the means at its disposal on open towns, markets, and villages . . ."

By September 13, behind the front, farm after farm, village after village, was in flames. The people were searching for their lost possessions among heaps of ashes and refuse.

And yet Warsaw, with incredible heroism, withstood the onslaught. On September 6, German artillery started bombing the suburbs of Warsaw. The next day the residential suburbs and the centre of the city were bombed; and on the evening of the day following the greatest air-raid yet experienced by the people of Warsaw was carried out, with the dropping of many incendiary bombs. The State Department of Washington published, on September 13, a telegram from the United States Ambassador to Poland, Mr. A. J. Drexel Biddle, Jr., stating that the indiscriminate German bombing had included a heavy attack on the suburbs of Warsaw, not near to military barracks. On September 8, the Polish Government were constrained to leave Warsaw; but the centre of the city was still suffering perpetual bombardment, though no longer a legitimate objective. The dead in Warsaw were now being buried in the public gardens, as there was no more room in the cemeteries.

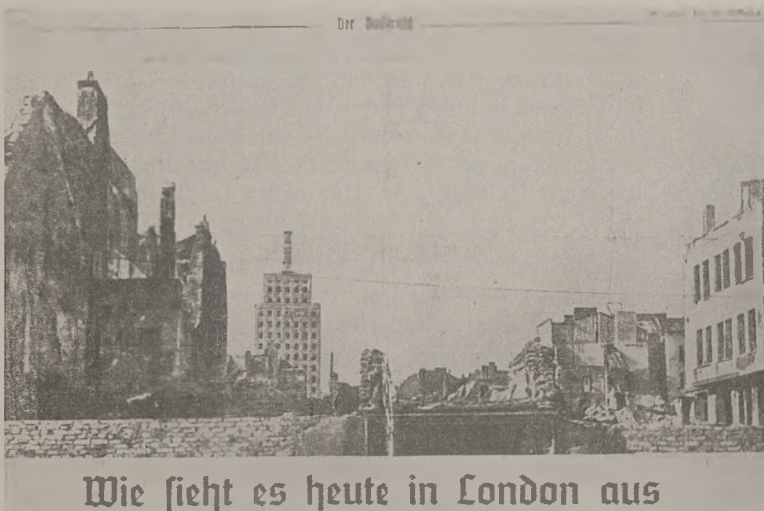
After a brief respite the assault on Warsaw was resumed on September 18; and a twelve hours

ultimatum was issued to the capital, by the commander of the German troops by means of leaflets scattered from aeroplanes. The Mayor of Warsaw, Stefan Starzynski, broadcast a message to the civilised world on September 19, describing the havoc wrought on the most famous monuments and churches of Warsaw, as well as on private houses; and the hundreds of bodies of men, women, and children lying dead in the streets. "I know," said the Mayor, "that the whole civilised world is listening to us tonight, in Europe as well as in America. I saw today the Warsaw Cathedral of St. John badly damaged by enemy bombardment. I visited the famous palace of Belvedere practically in ruins; famous churches of the capital have been continually under shell fire; the National Art Gallery, with its treasure of work by Polish artists and foreign masters, is in ruins. But I have seen the immeasurable heroism of the citizens and soldiers and this town fighting for the freedom of our country and the freedom of our souls. These Polish men, women, and children, are not dying in vain, but acclaim that they are dying not only for the freedom of their own country, but for the freedom of Europe. Our lives may be in danger now, but our souls are undisturbed. We shall fight to the last man if we have to go down fighting. We shall stand at our posts imbued with holy faith in our ultimate victory, even in this dark hour."

For eight days the soldiers and citizens of Warsaw, with souls undisturbed—"no panic or nervousness was felt"—continued to hold the capital.

A terrific bombardment was launched against the city on the night of September 23, and on the day following. Then came the despatch of September 26: "The intensity of the artillery and air bombardment of Warsaw was further increased yesterday and today, apparently with the determination to reduce the chief parts of the city on the left bank of the Vistula to heaps of ruins. . . . For more than two weeks dwellings, palaces, museums, government buildings, theatres, and churches, have all been targets for the besiegers' bombardment, which included incendiary bombs. Since last week aeroplanes have frequently dived low and fired with machine-guns at rows of windows in dwelling-houses, and more than once at food queues standing in the streets. In spite of all the cruel havoc the defenders' fighting spirit is unbroken."

Unbroken in spirit but overwhelmed by desperate odds, the defence of Warsaw was nearing swiftly the inevitable end. Attacks by storming parties, launched by the Germans, were repeated on the



"THE GREATER THE LIE . . ." (Hitler)

This photograph taken from the German weekly "Der Stosstrupp," organ of the S.S. Black Elite Guard, shows the ruins of Napoleon's Square in Warsaw, in the background, the easily recognisable Prudential Life Building. German papers were ordered to print it with the caption "What London Looks Like Today."



day on which the above despatch was written. On the day following, the city surrendered. "Information received early today," declared a despatch written on the day of the surrender, "made it clear that the defenders could not hope to resist for more than a matter of hours against the destructive and murderous battering which has been incessant during the last few days." Hundreds of fires had burnt out whole blocks of buildings, leaving only smouldering ruins. Water-mains were destroyed. Exploding bombs showered like rain from the air. Shells from the German batteries started new fires in every direction. The food problem had become acute.

On the day of the surrender, the Defence Command of Warsaw issued a communique in which it was stated that "Fires having destroyed the food centres, lack of food is cruelly felt. The number of wounded is 16,000 soldiers, and 20,000 civilians."

For twenty-one days a heroic defence had been carried out; practically half the city was destroyed, together with the water-works, the electric plant, and other public utility services; ammunition was running out; and there was evidently no possibility of obtaining early assistance from the Allies.

And yet until the very day of surrender the defenders had continued to inflict losses on the attackers, and to bring down bomber aircraft.

Two months after the siege the number of the dead whose bodies had been recovered from the debris of the ruined houses of Warsaw was declared to be 20,000; the bodies of those who had died "not only for the freedom of our own country, for the freedom of our souls, but for the freedom of Europe," to quote again the broadcast of the Mayor, addressed to the whole world only seven days before the capitulation.

WARSAW, RUINED BUT INDOMITABLE,  
WILL BE FOR ALL TIME THE SYMBOL  
BOTH OF THE PASSION AND OF THE  
RESURRECTION OF POLAND.

(Continued from page 9)

"We thank the British nation for its worlds of encouragement, but we are waiting for effective aid. We remain at our post. We believe that this aid will be rapid and energetic, and that it will save the lives of thousands of women, children and old men, who, under the most trying conditions, are holding out at their posts. We are aware that this aid cannot arrive immediately, and we are waiting patiently, having faith that the scales of victory must finally incline to our side, because this is the struggle of Right against Might, of civilization against barbarism."

## From The White House

WASHINGTON, September 4, 1941. — *The following is the full text of the Announcement issued at the White House today providing for Lease-Lend Act aid to the Polish Government. The Statement was released to the press by Stephen Early, Press Secretary to the President.*

*"The President today announced that he had authorized the transfer of various defense articles to the Government of Poland under the Lend-Lease Act and declared that the gallant resistance of the forces of the Government of Poland is 'Vital to the defense of the United States.'*

*"This action, the President said, demonstrate our intention to give material support to 'The fighting determination of the Polish people to establish once again the independence of which they were so inhumanly deprived.'*

*"Polish troops are now training in Canada for action overseas. Under the President's order machine guns, submachine guns, rifles, artillery equipment, trucks and other supplies will be sent to these troops in the near future.*

*"The President stressed the importance of this new aid to the Government of Poland as a continuing expression of the policy of the United States to extend aid to all who resist aggression."*

### AID TO POLAND

Poland's armies, the first to meet the Nazi Blitzkrieg technique, were smashed after about three weeks of fighting, but Poland did not quit the fight. First from France and later from London, her new Government in Exile continued in the struggle at Britain's side, re-forming such units of its armies as escaped the Russo-German squeeze play and recruiting new ones to fight in freedom's cause.

Today a Polish Army corps 34,000 strong is guarding an important sector of coast line in the British Isles against a German invasion. Another 10,000 are fighting with the British Imperial troops in Africa. Thousands more are in training in Canada, and since the agreement between the Soviets and Poland some 300,000 Polish soldiers taken prisoner by the Red Army two years ago are being released to fight once more against their German foes.

The United States never recognized the German conquest of Poland. That is why Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, Jr., is still accredited to the Polish Government in Exile in London. For these reasons alone there is ample cause, both on sentimental and on legitimate grounds, for the President's declaration that Poland's "gallant resistance" is "vital to the defense of the United States" and that her Government is therefore entitled to benefit under the Lease-Lend Act.

—The New York Times



# All Souls' Day in Warsaw



Graves on St. Alexander's Square

I SHALL never forget the aspect, on that day of the dead, of the streets of Warsaw, which were half destroyed by German bombs. Hundreds, thousands of graves, wherever a small plot of soil uncovered by paving stones could be found—one saw them. On that misty November evening, lit here and there by a street lamp that had been spared by the bombardment, these humble tombs of the martyrs were flowered by flickering flames from tiny candles. They were in gardens, on squares, in the centre of flower beds, in the streets where the pavement had been torn up, along the footpaths. Pitiful graves dug in haste, under the hail of bullets or shells, by nameless passers-by. One had to walk carefully so as not to step on them. I went forward with the crowd, which was silent, and, as it were, bowed down by grief. Some were carrying lighted candles, shielding them from the wind with their hands. Few people went to visit the outlying cemeteries of Powazki and Brodno that year, as there were no means of transport—the population contented itself by paying tribute to the soldiers and civilians who had fallen in the streets of the martyred city.

On the St. Alexander Square flowers had been laid on all

the graves. On the arm of a wooden cross surmounting a funerary mound a rosary with sparkling beads had been suspended; on another grave there was a little statuette of Our Lady of Lourdes; farther on, another was decorated by a helmet, and on yet another a child's toy was lying on a tiny mound. There is a row of graves in the Avenue of Jerusalem, just before the entrance to the Cafe-Club. On Grzybowski Square, before the charred ruins of the Church of All Saints, are lined up the graves of those who had come there to seek shelter.

The further I proceeded on my pilgrimage, the more lights I discovered, tiny flickering lights, even among the debris of col-

lapsed houses under whose ruins there lay the bodies of those who had to be denied their sepulchre, the bodies of civilians who had been slaughtered in so dastardly a manner.

On that evening Warsaw, once so full of life, was only a vast graveyard, a field of death—yet death candles symbolized the flame of remembrance, and—OF HOPE.

*From a letter sent from Warsaw in November, 1939*



Graves Everywhere